OBC certification by Delhi Government

720 SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the OBC candidates settled in Delhi could not avail of the job quota promised by the Central Government in September, 1993 because the Delhi Government is unable tocertify that the individual belongs OBC; and

(b) if so, what steps are taken by the Central Government to pressurise the Delhi Government to make arrangements for certification without delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU) : (a) The National Capital Territory of Delhi has not yet notified the list of OBCs for their territory. In the case of OBC candidates who have migrated from one State to another, the Government has issued instructions to all State Governments/UT Administrations on 8th April, 1994 for issue of OBC certificates to them. This order applies to the National Capital Territory of Delhi also. No report has been received, after the issue of these instructions, which would indicate that migrant OBC candidates are being denied the requisite eligibility certificate by the Delhi Administration.

(b) The Central Government has written to the Chief Minister of Delhi for expediting the identification and notification of the list of OBCs for Delhi.

Steps to protect Mal-Nourished Children

721. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is much progress in child survival and even after much emphasis on family welfare, about 63% children of the country are mal-nourished;

(b) whether it is a fact that not much progress has been achieved in removing the gender bias in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons for these short comings; and

(d) what effective steps are being contemplated by Government to remove these short comings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELCOME (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (*a*) According to the report of the National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (1991-92) under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare 36.7%, 45.1%and 11.1% children in the age group of 1-5 years were found to have mild, moderate and severe malnutrition respectively.

(b) *and* (c) It is true that gender bias still persists not only in India but other countries also. The reasons for gender bias may be attributed to socio-economic factors still operating in a tradition bound society.

(d) Department of WCD in the Ministry of HRD is implementing the integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme aimed at improving the nutritional and health status of most vulnerable groups including pre-school children upto 6 years of age, pregnant and nursing mothers. As on 30-6-94 about 2.10 crore beneficiaries including 1.72 crore children and 0.38 crore pregnant women/nursing mothers were receiving services under the ICDS Scheme. In addition there is the Balwadi Nutrition Programme (BNP) and the Scheme of Creches/ Day Care Centres aimed at improving the nutritional/health status of children.